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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

GENERAL BOOKS AND BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

A History of All Nations from the Earliest Times. General Editor, JOHN HENRY WRIGHT, LL.D., Professor in Harvard University. Volumes III., *Ancient Greece*, IV., *Republican Rome*, and V., *Imperial Rome*. (Philadelphia: Lea Brothers and Company. 1905. Pp. 431, 331, 326.)

THE first two volumes of this series, which is to consist of twenty-four, were reviewed by Professor Toy in the number of this REVIEW for October, 1905 (XI. 117-118). The general description of the whole series given there need not be repeated here. The three volumes noted here are meant to be, like all the first nineteen volumes of the series, "a carefully edited translation, slightly condensed, with additions", of the corresponding volumes in Flathe's *Allgemeine Weltgeschichte*. These were written by Professor G. F. Hertzberg of Halle, and were practically nothing more than condensations of his *Hellas und Rom*, in two volumes, and his *Geschichte des römischen Kaiserreiches*, published in 1879 and 1880 as parts of Oncken's *Allgemeine Geschichte*.

The original volumes, when published, constituted the best popular history of classical antiquity in German. They were prepared by a scholar who, if not an independent authority in the field, was thoroughly acquainted with the latest and best original work there, and who had a notable experience and power in popularizing scientific researches. They were unencumbered with learned apparatus, and yet reflected the latest investigations, and were presented "in a form to excite the interest of all intelligent readers". By means of brief foot-notes the Flathe edition of 1885-1886 corrected here and there the Oncken edition of 1879-1880, but otherwise was the same, except for being much condensed.

The task of putting these volumes into fitting English, and at the same time of bringing them up to date after twenty years of research and discovery, was a serious one. In many ways it would have been easier to rewrite the whole story. The new material might then have been incorporated into the work, instead of for the most part taking the form of appendixes, added paragraphs, and additional foot-notes. But, assuming the wisdom of the task, it has been well performed. We still need, however, a popular history of antiquity on the general plan of Eduard Meyer's *Geschichte des Alterthums*, where the history of the ancient world, and especially that of the Balkan and Apennine peninsulas, is treated in parallel chronological layers, after the manner of the more recent excavations.

Volume III., *Ancient Greece*, is translated and condensed from the original by Professor Charles Forster Smith of the University of Wisconsin. Entirely new are the concluding paragraphs of chapter II., pp. 47-55, prepared on the basis of the opening chapter of Bury's *History of Greece* (1900), and Dörpfeld's *Troja und Ilion* (1902). They represent succinctly the "vast contributions" which "archaeological research within the last decade has made . . . to our knowledge of the early history of the civilization on the shores of the eastern Mediterranean". New also is the appendix, pp. 411-421, on the recent Cretan excavations, especially those at Cnossus and Phaestus. Both these additions are richly illustrated from the latest photographs, and are the work of Professor William Nickerson Bates of the University of Pennsylvania, whose name appears as associate editor on the title-page of the volume. Until scholars are more agreed as to the relations of this newly found Cretan culture to that so long known as "Mycenaean", it is well, perhaps, that the evidence merely is presented, without definite deductions from it.

Other adaptations of the old to the new edition consist mainly in slight changes in or corrections of the original German text; in brief foot-notes; and in generous additions of illustrative material. An example of the first is the change (p. 127) in the date of Cylon's attempt upon the Acropolis from 612 B. C. to "before 620 B. C.", without, however, putting the narrative into its proper position before the story of Draco's activity. The mere change of date is hardly enough. It will doubtless seem to many that the chronology of Aristotle's *Constitution of Athens* has been adopted with too much confidence in other cases.

Good examples of the general editor's foot-notes, supplementing or correcting the original text, may be seen at pp. 105, 143, 217, 288, 376, and 390. Almost all are imperatively called for by the advance in knowledge since the original text was prepared. Perhaps their number and importance may be thought to emphasize anew the danger of putting new wine into old bottles.

For most of the added illustrations the scholar as well as the general reader will be thankful, and also for the carefully detailed explanations of them. Some are of rare beauty and great importance, as, for instance, the vase-painting of Croesus on the Funeral Pile (p. 157), the Darius vase (plate IX.), and the beautiful vase-paintings in color (plates V., VI., and VIII.). On the other hand, it is to be regretted that so much of the old illustrative material has been kept, or furbished up, when clearly past its usefulness, as, for instance, the coarse cuts of the Naples Tyrannicides (pp. 140, 141), or of the "Marathonian Soldier" (p. 179), or of Herodotus, Thucydides, and Euripides (after Visconti, pp. 256, 290). In all these cases good fresh photographs are accessible. And what scholar can welcome the hypaethral restorations of the temples of Athena and Zeus (p. 89 and plate XVI.)?

Volume IV., *Republican Rome*, is translated by Professor John K. Lord, of Dartmouth College. The original, published in 1879 and 1885,

was the conventional and standard popular history, steering on the whole impartially between the opposing schools among the followers of Niebuhr, and not too much influenced by the radical views of Mommsen. Greater freedom in this last regard might possibly have been exercised by the translator, as, for instance, in rejecting the note (p. 88) on the genuineness of the earliest commercial treaty between Rome and Carthage. Eduard Meyer upholds its genuineness (*Geschichte des Alterthums*, II. § 500).

There was, of course, much less to be done in the way of bringing the material of this volume up to date than in the preceding one. Even the vexed Etruscan questions of chapter I. have not received much additional light since 1885, and therefore require no such supplementary treatment as the corresponding "Mycenaean" questions of the *Ancient Greece*. The illustrations of Etruscan monuments are, however, somewhat fuller and richer in the English edition. Especially welcome are the additions of the beautiful colored plate I., representing a sepulchral wall-painting, and of figure 6, a sepulchral stele. On the other hand, the retention of the old illustration of the walls of the Palatine (figure 12) is, in view of the abundance of recent photographs, inexplicable; and both the (old) plate IX. and the (new) figure 44 are hopelessly out of date. Far less has been done for this volume in the way of improving its illustrations than for the one before it.

Volume V., *Imperial Rome*, is also translated by Professor Lord, and differs even less from its German original than its companion volume, *Republican Rome*. The story closes with the permanent division of the Empire in 395 A. D., leaving the description of the breaking up of the Western Empire to the succeeding volume of the series. An exceedingly valuable supplementary chapter (pp. 257-274) on Latin Literature from Paulus to Claudian, *i. e.*, from about 200 A. D. to 400 A. D., is contributed by Mr. George W. Robinson of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and fills a gap of nearly two centuries which the German series unaccountably left in its sketch of the intellectual life of the Roman world.

All three volumes show great improvement on the German original in the continuous numbering of chapters and "Parts" through the successive "Books", and in the admirable "Analytical Contents" of each chapter supplied by the general editor at the end of each volume. Volume V. also supplies an elaborate series of "Chronological Tables", to illustrate Oriental as well as Greek and Roman history, and supplementing, therefore, all the first five volumes of the series. The Egyptian chronology already needs correction to accord with the system established by Eduard Meyer ("Aegyptische Chronologie", *Abhandlungen der Königlich Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften*, Philosophisch-historische Classe, 1904) and adopted by Breasted in the latest *History of Egypt*. So impossible is it to have a book up-to-date for long.

B. PERRIN.